

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 04082 131228Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /090 W

----- 029996

R 121741Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2148

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SP, MO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: PRESS TREATMENT OF CAPTURE  
OF MOROCCAN PATROL

REF : RABAT 2777

1. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION INVITED TO USDAO IR 6 889 0182 75  
AND IR 6 889 0187 75.

2. BORDER INCIDENT WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE NEWS COVERAGE  
DURING FIRST TWO DAYS FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE. EDITORIAL  
COMMENT HAS BEEN ABSENT AND JUNE 12 EDITIONS SPANISH PRESS  
MADE LITTLE OR NO MENTION OF INCIDENT.

3. GOS PROBABLY HAS BEEN SMARTING SOMEWHAT OVER CAPTURE  
OF TEN SPANISH SOLDIERS (MADRID 3172) IN INCIDENTS OCCUR-  
ING MAY 10 - 11 AND THUS WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESS  
EXPOSURE OVER LATEST INCIDENT IN WHICH OUTCOME MORE  
FAVORABLE TO SPANISH, AND IN WHICH MOROCCANS CAST MORE  
CLEARLY AS AGRESSORS. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT PRESS STORIES  
HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CAUTIOUS. FIRST STORIES DESCRIBED  
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INCIDENT AS "GRAVE MILITARY VIOLATION" OF SAHARAN BORDER,

WITH DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF WAR MATERIAL BROUGHT IN BY MOROCCANS. LATER ACCOUNTS QUESTIONED PURPOSE OF INFILTRATION, ALLOWING FOR POSSIBILITY THAT MOROCCAN UNIT COMPOSED LARGELY OF SAHARANS DECIDED TO TURN ITSELF OVER TO SPANISH RATHER THAN PARTAKE IN FRATRICIDAL BATTLE AGAINST SAHARAN MEMBERS OF SPANISH UNITS. JUNE 10 EDITION OF EVENING DAILY INFORMACIONES REFERRED TO STRANGE AND CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING WHOLE INCIDENT.

4. WITH WALDHEIM CURRENTLY IN MADRID, GOS NOW APPEARS INCLINED TO PLAY DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF INCURSIONS AND ESCHEW BELLICOSITY AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE. WHILE WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION NOW, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT TO THIS END, PRESS PARTIAL BLACK-OUT OVER INCIDENT HAS BEEN IMPOSED.  
STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, INVASIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID04082  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 RABAT 2777  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPANISH SAHARA: PRESS TREATMENT OF CAPTURE OF MOROCCAN PATROL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, SP, MO, SS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006